



## MEDIA RELEASE

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Environmental Health  
Association (Australia) Inc.  
[www.envirohealthaustralia.com.au](http://www.envirohealthaustralia.com.au)

Comment: For immediate release

### **WA Environmental Health professional demands leadership at Copenhagen**

The Environmental Health Association (Australia) Inc, Vice President, Peter McKenzie – is adamant that the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 15) in Copenhagen next week – must set the world on a safe course to reduce global carbon emissions.

Perth based, Environmental Health Officer Mr McKenzie, was trained by former US vice president Al Gore in 2007 and again at a Climate Project's Asia Pacific Summit in Melbourne last July. Mr McKenzie wants Australia to play a leadership role in securing strong global climate change outcomes at Copenhagen.

“Over the past six months I have given presentations to people in local community and professional organisations. Now I am looking to political leaders to represent the will of everyday Australians calling for strong climate action in Copenhagen,” he said.

Mr McKenzie believes COP15 presents the best possible chance to keep the impact of global warming below the 2°C threshold – the widely accepted level at which to prevent the worst climate impacts.

“The two main areas that Australia needs to take on a leadership position are committing to and delivering a strong greenhouse pollution reduction target and helping developing nations. We need to especially help developing nations in our region to develop in a low carbon way and to cope with the impacts of climate change”.

Since the Climate Project (TCP) – began here in November 2006, one in seventy Australians (approximately 330,000) has seen a presentation delivered by one of the 330 Al Gore trained Climate Project presenters.

Globally, TCP presenters have spoken to an audience of 7.3 million people. Presenters like Mr McKenzie, have delivered their version of the presentation about the climate crisis more than 70,000 times.

“If ever in our lives we wanted to take action on climate change now is the time to do it. We are now calling on Australian and global leaders at COP15 to take the next vital steps.”

COP 15 will be the largest international political conference ever held in Denmark. An anticipated 15,000 delegates from 192 countries representing governments, business and civil society are expected at the conference to be held 7<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> December.

**To arrange an interview/photograph with Peter McKenzie, please contact Mary Ward – EHAA Media Officer on 041681 3223 or email: [media@envirohealthaustralia.com.au](mailto:media@envirohealthaustralia.com.au)**

For more information see [www.acfonline.org.au/climateproject](http://www.acfonline.org.au/climateproject)

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

The Environmental Health Association (Australia) Inc (EHAA) is a peak professional body seeking to promote excellence in environmental health practice through education, training and professional development at a local, national and international level.

The overlap between care of the environment and the practice of public health is broadly described as environmental health. Members are passionately committed to the delivery of best practice standards to the public and industry.

As a federated, autonomous incorporated organisation, all decision making is undertaken at State Level. Ten special interest groups (SIG) inform members on important issues and seek comment in the development of policy positions.

EHAA SIGs include: Built Environment, Professional Management, Food Safety, Emergency Management, Waste Management, Climate Change, Indigenous Health, Safety & Health, Public Health and Sustainability.

The EHAA *Sustainability Special Interest Group* develops policies related to the implementation of *sustainability principles*, contributes to the development of Frameworks for *sustainability assessments* where possible and acts as a lobby group for the enhancement of the environment and human well-being in development.

For more information about the Environmental Health Association (Australia) Inc please contact President Llew Withers via email [info@envirohealthaustralia](mailto:info@envirohealthaustralia) or EHAA Media Officer Mary Ward on 0416 813 223.